

JOHN R. R. POLLOCK,

Medical Officer of Health,

Tiverton Rural District.

⊛ REPORT. ⊛

FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1910.

TIVERTON:

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TO THE
TIVERTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to lay before you my Report on the Health of the District, during the year ending 31st December, 1910.

The Tiverton Rural District is 82,000 acres in extent, and in a great measure consists of rolling hills and uplands, which are drained and watered by the rivers Exe, Culm and Lowman, and their tributaries. The hilly nature of the land is in every way suited to the Dairy-farming and Stock-raising industries, which give employment to a large proportion of the inhabitants of the District. Following on the agricultural interests, as to numbers, we find that many of the people of the District are engaged as workers, in the mills and factories, of various descriptions, situated in the different small towns throughout the District.

The Soils of the District range in all degrees from Light Loam to Heavy Clay, and below these are found Sub-soils of Rocky Marl, Clay, or Gravel.

None of the Rivers are polluted by effluents from factories. Within the District, the only River, upon the banks of which any factories are situated, is the Culm. These factories are as follows: At Cullompton, a paper mill, a woollen mill, and a tannery; at Hele, a paper mill; and at Uffculme, a woollen mill.

The **General Health of the District** has been remarkably good all through the year that has just ended, which point is brought markedly before one's notice when one looks at the **very low Death-rate** for 1910 as compared with the average rate of the last ten years, which stands at 13.07. The **Death-rate for 1910 is only 10.47** or, if we include the deaths of residents which occurred in the Workhouse and Infirmary 11.38.

On going further into the returns we find, that if there has been a **decline in the Death-rate**, the **heavy fall in the Birth-rate** is even more remarkable. The average for the last ten years has been 23.41, but in 1910 the rate has dropped so low as **19.08**. In 1903 there were 401 births, which is the largest number recorded during the ten year period from 1900 to 1909 inclusive. Last year there were **only 290 births** in all. Eleven of these were illegitimate.

Including deaths which took place in Institutions outside the District, there was a total of **173 deaths recorded**, 81 of which were of persons over 65 years of age, and out of these 81 deaths, 32 were of persons aged between 70 and 80 years, 23 between 80 and 90, and 4 of 90 years and over The greatest age being of an old man of 96 years.

There were also 14 infants of under one year who died during 1910.

On comparing the lists of causes of death for the two years 1909 and 1910 it will be found that there is an **increase of 3** in the number of deaths caused by **Phthisis**, but on the other hand there have been **decreases in** the number of deaths caused by **Whooping Cough, Bronchitis and Heart Disease**, although in this latter case the total of deaths has fallen from 33 to 26, the fall has been entirely among those classed as "65 and upwards," (which have gone down from 25 to 13), whereas the number of people between 25 and 65 who have died from heart disease, has risen from 5 to 13.

There was only one death from Whooping Cough, and none from Measles, Scarlet Fever, Croup, or Diphtheria.

Twelve deaths from **Cancer** and nine from **Pneumonia** remain the **same as in 1909**.

The **Zymotic Death-rate** for 1910, is very low, standing as it does at **.263 per 1000** of the population. The cases were: 1 Whooping Cough, 1 Diarrhoea, and 2 Enteritis.

The **Birth-rate of 19.08 is the lowest ever recorded** in this District, in which there were 290 children born last year. Of these, 141 were boys and 149 were girls. Fourteen of these infants died before the close of the year.

The **ten year average** of Infant Mortality stands at **75.58**.

The deaths of the 14 Infants who died during 1910, are accounted for as follows: Diphtheria 1, Gastritis 1, Premature Birth 1, Congenital Defects 2, Marasmus 3, Convulsions 2, Bronchitis 2, Pneumonia 1, and "other causes" 1.

There were **33 Notifications of Infectious Diseases** during 1910, divided as follows: Diphtheria 14, Erysipelas 7, and Scarlet Fever 12. Of these cases, 12 Diphtheria and 6 Scarlet Fever were removed to the Isolation Hospital, where all the patients made satisfactory recoveries. In the previous year there were 39 notifications.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES.

Before any newly-built Houses can be occupied, a certificate of its fitness for habitation must be obtained from the Council, the said certificate only being granted on recommendation of the Sanitary Inspector.

During the year **eleven plans** for new houses have been submitted for the approval of the Council, and **ten** of these have been **passed** as satisfactory.

As a general rule, there is a sufficiency of space about the houses, and the spirit of cleanliness is being inculcated in, and also enforced upon the inhabitants of the District.

There were **four cases of overcrowding** in Halberton, but on steps being taken to abate this nuisance, it was at once remedied.

WATER SUPPLY.

During 1910, the supply of water has been sufficient in all parts of the District.

The town of **Bradninch** and the village of **Silverton** draw their supplies of water from **Reservoirs** constructed in their neighbourhoods.

The **rest of the District** depends upon **Wells and Springs** for its Water Supply. The number of wells has been increased during the year by the sinking of eight new ones, five of these having been sunk at Cullompton, two at Uffculme, and one at Kentisbeare. Several old wells^h have been cleaned out and rendered fit for use.

The water in the Willand School well is still impure, and is no longer used for drinking purposes.

SEWERAGE.

In the town of **Bradninch** the **new Sewerage Scheme** is approaching completion, and contracts have been made to carry out the necessary house connections. During the year, various sections of defective sewers have been taken up, and relaid. New drains have been laid at the cottages on Cullompton Hill.

The Sewerage Works at Thorverton are working satisfactorily.

The **Broad Irrigation System** is working well at Uffculme.

Many improvements in the Sewerage arrangements of the District have been carried out during the year. The following are the principal alterations :—

Cullompton. A man has been appointed to flush the drains regularly, and keep them clear. Plans for the extension of a sewer to St. George's Well have been approved by the Local Government Board. Several new house drains have been laid, and nine new water closets have been constructed.

At **Halberton**, two new drains have been laid at farm-houses.

At **Oakford**, a new drain for slop-water has been constructed at Mr. Winsborrow's cottages.

At **Sampford Peverell**, new drainage has been laid down at the Boys' Home; also several new drains and two new water closets have been constructed in the Lower Town.

At **Silverton**, a new section of 9 inch sewer has been laid in Fore Street, and a section of 6 inch sewer has been laid in Parsonage Lane. The sewer, near Berry Villa, has been reconstructed. There have also been several new drains and three new water closets added to houses in the village.

At **Uffculme**, new drains have been laid and the old offices reconstructed at the Farmers' Hotel. A new slop-water drain and connection to the sewer have been made in Kitwell Street.

At **Willand**, there have been two works of reconstruction of drains carried out.

HOUSE REFUSE.

In Bradninch, the Scavenger removes the house refuse once a week.

In Cullompton, in the principal streets the house refuse is removed by the Town Scavenger each day, and in the less important streets twice a week.

In all other parts of the District this duty has to be attended to by the occupants of the houses, and there has not been any complaint of this work not having been carried out.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The Order for the notification of "poor persons" suffering from Phthisis has been put in force and **two notifications** have been received. Both of these cases were visited, and the relatives were instructed what precautions should be taken to prevent the spread of the disease.

Arrangements can be made to have persons suffering from Phthisis sent to Didworthy Sanatorium to undergo the open air treatment.

The District Council has made the offer to the public, to disinfect any house where a death from Phthisis has occurred, but unfortunately the public so far, have not shown much appreciation of the benefits to be derived from the offer. Disinfection having been asked for and effected in only one or two cases.

I regret to have to report that there is an **increase** in 1910 in the number of deaths due to **Phthisis**, which, at 12, is considerably in excess of the average number of deaths which have occurred during the last nine years, this average being only 9.88 for the District.

The records for these years are as follows:—

Year.	Phthisis.	Other Tub. Diseases.	Total.
1901	14	3	17
1902	16	4	20
1903	10	8	18
1904	13	5	18
1905	8	3	11
1906	8	2	10
1907	6	5	11
1908	5	5	10
1909	9	3	12
89 average 9.88		38 average 4.22	127 av. 14.11
1910	12	3	15

There is no Hospital accommodation within the District for the treatment of either advanced or earlier cases of pulmonary tuberculosis.

SCHOOLS.

Several of the Schools of the District have been closed for various periods during the year, on account of outbreaks of Measles, which disease has been very prevalent during the past twelve months.

MILK.

The **Supply of Milk** throughout the District is generally considered to be **good and sufficient**, but no samples have been tested to ascertain whether they harbour tubercle bacilli.

The **Dairies of the District** have been inspected, as to the condition of the water supply, air space, cleanliness and general character, according to the requirements of the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Act of 1899, and Farmers and Dairymen have been fully instructed as to the provisions of the Order.

There are **58 Registered Dairies** in the District, and these, upon inspection were found to be generally clean and in **good order**.

FOOD.

No action has been taken under Section 117 of the Public Health Act, 1875, and no arrangement has as yet been made by the District Council for the inspection of the meat of the District.

No carcases nor parts of carcases have been condemned as being infected with tuberculosis.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

There are **24 Slaughterhouses** in the District distributed as follows: Bradninch 3, Cullompton 7, Halberton 1, Kentisbeare 1, Sampford Peverell 2, Stoodleigh 1, Willand 1, Silverton 3, Thorverton 2, Uffculme 2, and Uplowman 1.

One notification was given in Bradninch for the whitewashing of a Slaughterhouse, four notifications in Cullompton for the same purpose, and also one notification in Halberton, one in Silverton, one in Thorverton, and two in Uffculme. All of these notifications were for whitewashing, and this work has been duly carried out.

BAKEHOUSES.

There are **31 Bakehouses** in the District situated in the following localities:— At Bradninch 5, Bickleigh 1, Cullompton 8, Halberton 1, Kentisbeare 1, Oakford 1, Silverton 4, Sampford Peverell 2, Thorverton 3, Uffculme 4, Willand 1.

Notifications to whitewash were served to, one in Bradninch, two in Cullompton, two in Silverton, two in Uffculme, one in Willand, and one in Sampford Peverell.

The others were all found to be clean and well carried on.

Note.—One Bakehouse has been closed at Sampford Peverell.

There are **no Underground Bakehouses** in the District.

MIDWIVES ACT.

There are **15 Nurses registered** under this Act. Their registers and appliances are inspected from time to time and these have been found to be in good order, especially those in the possession of the Nurses who belong to the Devon County Nursing Association. All the women are clean in their dress, and their houses are in good sanitary condition.

METHOD OF DEALING WITH NUISANCES.

The Sanitary Inspector visits and advises the responsible parties as to the abatement of the nuisance. If his recommendations are not carried out, the matter is then reported to the Council.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The Tiverton Rural District, working in conjunction with the Borough of Tiverton, maintains an Isolation Hospital. The results obtained in the working of this Hospital have been satisfactory. The number of cases of Infectious Disease in the Rural District, which were removed to the Isolation Hospital during the year, was 12 of Diphtheria and six of Scarlet Fever. All the patients made satisfactory recoveries.

DISINFECTION.

The Disinfection of infected premises has been effected by Signer's Disinfecting Apparatus, the disinfectant used being Fomaldehyde. Sulphur is also employed for this purpose. The interior walls of infected premises are well washed down with a solution of Jeyes Sanitary Disinfectant.

Clothing and bedding have been disinfected by the Steam Apparatus belonging to the Isolation Hospital.

The Medical Inspection of School Children has been taken over in the Rural District by special whole-time Officers, who have been appointed for this duty by the Devon County Council.

In conjunction with the Sanitary Inspector, House to House Visitation has been carried out throughout the District.

There are not any Offensive Trades in the District.

There is no Common Lodging-House in the District.

There is no imported labour employed in the District, in the picking of hops, fruit or peas, and therefore no special arrangements need be made for the pickers' accommodation.

All Factories in the District have been provided with Fire Escapes in accordance with the Factories and Workshops Act of 1901.

BIRTH AND DEATH RATES.

	1908.	1909.	1910.
Birth Rate 22.83	— 20.92	— 19.08
Death Rate	... 11.38	— 12.63	— 11.38
Infant Mortality	... 60.52	— 66.04	— 48.27
Zymotic Death-rate	.4605	— .4605	— .263

The Report of the Sanitary Inspector is attached hereto.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN R. R. POLLOCK,

M.O.H. TIVERTON RURAL DISTRICT.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

For the Year ending December 31st, 1910.

TO THE TIVERTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit the following summary of the Sanitary work, carried out during the past year.

BICKLEIGH.

Various works in compliance with the Dairies and Cowsheds Regulations.

BRADNINCH.

WATER SUPPLY.—The service from the town mains has been very satisfactory during the past year.

In June last it was found however that a considerable flow of water from the springs which supply the new reservoir at Paceycombe, was not being intercepted. On opening up, it was found that the collecting pipes were partially choked; these pipes were in my opinion too small, and laid at an insufficient depth, in consequence of which the water was passing below.

The existing pipes were taken up and replaced with larger pipes, laid at a lower level; an improvement was also made in the straining filter.

The result of this work has been very satisfactory.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.—A section of defective sewer at the West End has been taken up and relaid.

The Sewerage Scheme designed by Messrs. Willcox and Raikes, is now nearing completion, and contracts have been made to carry out the necessary house connections.

HOUSE DRAINAGE.—New drains have been laid at cottages on Cullompton Hill.

Various other defective drains have been put in order.

DAIRIES AND COWSHED REGULATIONS.—Various inspections have been made and works carried out in compliance with the Regulations.

REMOVAL OF HOUSE REFUSE—This has been carried out in a satisfactory manner.

BUTTERLEIGH.

This part of the district is in fairly satisfactory condition.

Various works have been carried out in compliance with the Dairies Regulations.

CADBURY.

Several notifications have been given under the Dairies and Cowsheds Regulations; work is still progressing.

CADELEIGH.

This part of the district is fairly satisfactory, work in compliance with the Dairies Regulations is in hand.

CULLOMPTON.

July
No PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY.—The town is throughout supplied by private well and pumps.

The water from several of the wells in the lower part of the town is of doubtful quality, probably being due to infiltration of surface water; samples have been taken at various times, and special tests have been made by the Medical Officer and myself in order to discover the source of pollution. The result of these tests has not been very definite.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.—The sewers are working well; a man has been appointed to flush them regularly and keep them clear.

The sewage at the Outfalls, after passing through Resolving Tanks, is dealt with by broad irrigation; improved arrangements have been made for removal of sludge, and the better distribution of the effluent.

Plans for the extension of a sewer to St. George's Well have been approved by the Local Government Board.

HOUSE DRAINAGE, &c.—*Mr. Taylor's Cottages, New Street.*—Alteration of drains, and construction of two water closets.

Mr. Selway's, Higher Street.—Reconstruction of drain, and connection with sewer.

Mr. Burnard's Cottages, Higher Street.—New drains and water closet.

Mr. Plumpton's Cottages, Higher Street.—New drains and two new water closets.

Mrs. Bazley's, High Street.—New drains, and reconstruction of water closet.

Mr. Selwood's Cottage, Church Lane.—New drains and water closet.

Schools.—Reconstruction of intercepting chamber.

Newlands.—New drains and two pail closets.

Hayne Barton.—New drains and two pail closets.

George's Well.—New drains and two water closets.

Bathills.—New drains, water closet, and bath room.

REMOVAL OF HOUSE REFUSE.—This has been carried out by the Authority in a satisfactory manner.

CLAYHANGER.

Various work in connection with the Dairies Regulations.

CRUWYS MORCHARD.

Several cottages have been renovated and work carried out in compliance with the Dairies and Cowsheds Regulations.

HALBERTON.

NO PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY.—The supply from wells and overflowing springs is abundant, and generally of good quality.

SEWERAGE.—The sewers are working fairly satisfactorily; at the Outfall it would be advisable to extend the effluent pipe further down the meadow.

HOUSE DRAINAGE, &c.—*Five Bridges Farm*.—New drain from Yard.

Doctor's Farm.—New drainage.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS REGULATIONS.—Various works have been carried out in compliance with these.

OVERTROWDING.—Four cases have occurred; these have been dealt with and the nuisance abated.

No public removal of house refuse.

HOCKWORTHY.

Inspections have been made and necessary work carried out under the Dairies Regulations.

HUNTSHAM.

Various work in compliance with the Dairies Regulations.

KENTISBEARE.

NO PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY.—The water from wells, &c., is generally satisfactory.

A new well has been sunk at Woodbarton, and two pail closets constructed.

No public removal of house refuse.

OAKFORD.

NO PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY.—Several cottages are supplied from a pump in the High Street, which is kept in repair by the various owners.

Several samples have been taken from various pumps, and the water is found to be of good quality.

SEWERAGE.—The sewers are satisfactory.

HOUSE DRAINAGE.—A new slop water drain has been constructed at Mr. Winsborrow's Cottages.

No public removal of house refuse.

SAMPFORD PEVERELL.

• No PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY.—A new pump has been fixed, and given for the use of the inhabitants of Higher Town by the late Rev. P. C. Rossiter.

The supplies from wells throughout the village is fairly satisfactory.

SEWERAGE.—The existing sewers are in good order.

HOUSE DRAINAGE, &c.—New drains constructed at premises in Higher Town belonging to the late Rev. P. C. Rossiter and Mr. Holloway.

Boys' Home.—New drainage.

Mr. Jennings, Lower Town.—New drainage and water closet.

Mr. Taudevin's.—New drainage and water closet.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS REGULATIONS.—Various works in compliance with these have been carried out.

No public removal of house refuse.

SILVERTON.

TOWN WATER SUPPLY.—A constant supply has been given throughout the year, excepting for a short time during which the open pond at the top of the village was being cleaned out.

Samples of the water have been taken at various times; it is found to be of excellent quality. Houses at the higher part of the village cannot be supplied from the present reservoir on account of its low elevation; a scheme is however being pushed forward which we trust will not only supply these houses, but also provide an efficient service in case of fire.

SEWERAGE.—The sewers are working satisfactorily.

A new section of nine-inch sewer has been laid in Fore Street, and the nine-inch sewer near Berry Villa has been reconstructed.

A new section of six inch sewer has been laid in Parsonage Lane.

HOUSE DRAINAGE, &c.—*Fore Street, Wyndham Estate Cottages*.—New drains and connection to sewer.

Lamb Inn.— Do. Do.

Parsonage Lane, Cottages belonging to Miss Dawes.—New drainage, and three water closets.

Miss Rawle's Dairy.—New drain from Yard

Various works in compliance with the Dairies Regulations have been carried out.

No public removal of house refuse.

STOODLEIGH.

Work in compliance with the Dairies Regulations is in progress.

TEMPLETON.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS REGULATIONS.—Necessary work has been carried out, and notification for further work has been given.

THORVERTON.

NO PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY.—The village is well supplied from pumps; the water generally being of good quality.

SEWERAGE.—The sewers have been working satisfactory, with the exception of the main sewer in Silver Street, which became choked by roots from a willow tree finding their way through a spare junction. The sewer was opened up and cleared, and the junction properly stopped with cement, since this there has been no further trouble.

The Automatic Flushing Tanks are in good order; the Outfall Works are satisfactory. The Caretaker has done his work well.

There is no public removal of house refuse.

UFFCULME.

NO PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY.—The town has a fair supply from pumps and overflowing springs; several samples have been taken, and the water is found to be of good quality. Closets are hand flushed and kept fairly clean.

SEWERAGE.—The sewers throughout are in a satisfactory condition. A great improvement has been made in the water supply to the Automatic Flushing Tank in Kitwell Street by excluding the general wash from Messrs. Furze's Brewery, and simply intercepting the waste water from the refrigerator; this has not only given a more effectual flushing, but also abated a bad smell which sometimes arose from the storage tank in Kitwell Street.

HOUSE DRAINAGE, &c.—*Farmers' Hotel*.—New drains, and reconstruction of offices.

Mr. Welland's Cottages, Kitwell Street—New slop water drain, and connection to sewer.

Various works have been carried out in compliance with Dairies and Cowsheds Regulations.

No public removal of house refuse

WILLAND.

NO PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY.—The supply from wells, &c., is now fairly satisfactory. The water from the well at the School however is still unfit for drinking.

HOUSE DRAINAGE, &c.—*Blackdown Cottage*.—Reconstruction of drainage.

Verbeer Lodge.—

Do. Do.

A considerable amount of work has been carried out in compliance with the Dairies and Cowsheds Regulations.

WATER SUPPLY.

As stated above, Bradninch and Silverton are the only places which have a public supply, the rest of the District being served by shallow wells, pumps, and overflowing springs. These supplies are generally wholesome, but in some cases liable to discolouration during heavy rains.

Several wells have been cleaned out and eight new ones sunk.

WATER ANALYSIS.

Thirty-eight samples have been taken, thirteen of which were found unfit for use.

Most of these have been dealt with satisfactorily.

CERTIFICATES OF WATER SUPPLY.

Certificates have been granted for twenty-five new houses.

BAKEHOUSES.

There are 31 Bakehouses in the District, none of which are underground. These have been regularly inspected, and are found generally to be kept clean, and in good condition.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

There are twenty-five Registered Slaughterhouses, they are kept in a satisfactory condition.

DAIRIES AND MILKSHOPS.

There are fifty-eight Dairies registered for the sale of milk; these have been frequently inspected, and are kept clean, and in good condition; a good deal of care is taken in cleansing of utensils, &c.

FARMHOUSE DAIRIES.—Many of these have been inspected, and a considerable amount of work has been carried out in compliance with the Regulations.

OVERCROWDING.

Four cases have occurred in Halberton, these have been dealt with and the nuisance abated. Increased cottage accommodation is required in various parts of the District.

COMMON LODGING-HOUSES.

There are none in the District.

HOUSE INSPECTIONS.

Frequent inspections have been made in conjunction with the Medical Officer.

A systematic inspection in accordance with the Housing and Town Planning Act of 1909 is being carried out.

Closing orders for four cottages in Crow Green, Cullompton, belonging to Mr. John Chard, have been issued.

SCHOOLS.

These throughout the District are generally satisfactory.

The Sanitary arrangements of the Cullompton Schools require to be remodelled.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Sanitary arrangements are satisfactory; there is no overcrowding, and suitable means of escape are provided in case of fire.

WORKROOMS.

Numerous inspections have been made; the rooms generally are well ventilated, and sanitary offices are satisfactory.

There is no overcrowding.

OUTWORKERS.

At present, none are employed.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Thirty-three notifications have been received.

Thorough disinfection has been carried out.

SCAVENGING.

This has been carried out in a satisfactory manner throughout the district.

BUILDING BYE-LAWS.

Eleven sets of Plans have been submitted, ten of which were approved by the Council.

FIRE BRIGADES.

Bradninch.—Manual Engine and Appliances.

Cullompton.—Two Manuals and Appliances.

Sampford Peverell.—Small Manual and Appliances.

Silverton.—Manual Engine and Appliances.

The whole of the Apparatus is kept in good working order, and the various Brigades are periodically drilled.

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

ROBT. ELLIS, M.I. MUN. E.,

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

